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EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN

To: All Kentucky Licensed Mines
From: Johnny Greene, Acting Executive Director, OMSL
Date: September 5, 2006
Re: CSE Self-Contained Self-Rescuers

The Office of Mine Safety and Licensing recently had the opportunity to observe testing performed on the CSE SR 100 self-contained self-rescuers (SCSRs). The initial test results highlight some concerns regarding the reliability of the CSE SR-100 SCSR when the unit is exposed to temperatures greater than 130°F. The manufacturer warns that the SR-100 should be removed from service if any of the following conditions exist: "top or bottom moisture indicator is not blue, the security seal is broken, ***the unit was exposed to temperatures above 130°F and the temperature indicator is red***, or shows indications of physical abuse." Units manufactured after 2004 are equipped with a temperature indicator, units manufactured prior to 2004 do not have the temperature indicator.

The WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training conducted testing on a sample of CSE SR-100 SCSR's that had been stored in their inspector's vehicles, thereby exposed to temperatures greater than 130°F. Preliminary results showed that units which had been exposed to extreme heat failed to perform as needed to effectively provide oxygen in an emergency situation.

Although there may be no outward signs of damage, CSE SR-100 SCSR units manufactured prior to 2004 that are not equipped with a temperature indicator may not function adequately if exposed to temperatures in excess of 130°F. It is impossible to track the history of each SCSR, therefore, OMSL is issuing this Emergency Awareness Bulletin to inform the mining industry of potential problems with CSE SR-100 SCSR's that fall in this category and is requiring that the licensee remove from service any CSE SR-100 SCSR that has been exposed to extreme heat (>130°F), or any unit with a questionable history of storage, that may have been exposed to extreme temperature (>130°F).

If you have questions or concerns about SCSR's, please contact your district office:

Barbourville (606) 546-5035
Harlan (606) 573-1260
Hazard (606) 435-6079

Madisonville (270) 824-7523
Martin (606) 285-3227
Pikeville (606) 433-7742

